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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FESTAC

SUBJECT: SCUL, NI

REF: LAGOS 8923

1. SUMMARY: DEPARTMENT, USIA, AND AID MET JULY 30 WITH US ZONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND FUND-RAISER. THEY ARE STILL PLANNING TO SEND 1500 PARTICIPANTS TO BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL (FESTAC) JUNUARY 15-FEBRUARY 12, 1977, AND ARE EVEN HOPING TO ERECT PAVILION, BUT COMMITTEE DOES NOT YET APPEAR TO HAVE RAISED ANY FUNDS (BEYOND RECENT GRANT FROM CU) OR TO HAVE ADVERTISED FESTAC VERY WIDELY IN BLACK COMMUNITY. OIL COMPANIES, ON WHOM US ZONE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN COUNTING HEAVILY FOR INITIAL FUNDS, ARE RELUCTANT TO GIVE WITHOUT EVIDENCE OF WIDESPREAD COMMUNITY SUPPORT. DEPARTMENT HAS CONTINUING NEED FOR INFORMATION ON STATUS OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR FESTAC AND EMBASSY VIEWS ON QUESTIONS REGARDING US PARTICIPATION. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN SPCOND OF A SERIES OF PERIODIC MEETINGS AT THE DE-

PARTMENT, US ZONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PROFESSOR DONALDSON TOLD DEPARTMENT, AID, AND USIA OFFICERS JULY 30 ABOUT HIS RECENT VISIT TO LAGOS AND MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL FESTAC COMMITTEE. ACCORDING TO DONALDSON, THE TWO BASIC STRUCTURES FOR THE FESTIVAL HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. THESE ARE THE NATIONAL THEATER IN LAGOS AND THE FESTAC VILLAGE, OUTSIDE CITY. A FLEET OF BUSES HAS BEEN BOUGHT AND DELIVERED TO LAGOS TO SERVE AS TRANSPORTATION LINK BETWEEN THOSE TWO POINTS. NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE FESTIVAL WILL BE ADEQUATELY TAKEN CARE OF IN THE VILLAGE. DONALDSON SAID HE LEARNED FROM EMBASSY THAT PLUMBING NOT COMPLETE IN MANY HOUSES. FOR HIMSELF, DONALDSON SEEMED UNSURE THAT CONDITIONS IN THE VILLAGE WOULD BE ADEQUATE FOR AMERICAN ARTISTS, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO CLEAN WATER AND AMERICAN STYLE FOOD. HE ALSO EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT THERE IS NO PROPER STAGE AT THE NATIONAL THEATER, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS BEING MORE LIKE A STADIUM.

3. FOR THESE AND OTHER REASONS, DONALDSON RAISED THE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE PAVILION FOR THE AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS, WHERE SEPARATE FACILITIES WOULD PROVIDE CLEAN WATER, AMERICAN FOOD, MEDICAL SERVICES AND SUPPLEMENTAL STAGE FACILITIES. DONALDSON INDICATED THAT HE ALREADY HAD ARCHITECTURAL PLANS IN HAND FOR SUCH A PAVILION, WHICH WOULD COST BETWEEN \$300,000 AND \$500,000. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT HE HAS ASSURANCES FROM THE NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES THAT A SITE COULD EASILY BE PREPARED FOR THE PAVILION. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS EXPRESSED POLITE INTEREST IN THE PAVILION, BUT MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THEY WERE NOT AWARE OF ANY USG FUNDS WHICH COULD BE USED FOR SUCH A STRUCTURE. DOUBT WAS ALSO EXPRESSED WHETHER THERE IS SUFFICIENT TIME TO ERECT A PAVILION AND HAVE IT CONNECTED TO UTILITIES BEFORE JANUARY 15.

4. DONALDSON WAS QUERIED ABOUT THE EFFORTS OF THE ZONAL COMMITTEE TO PUBLICIZE THE FESTIVAL IN THE AMERICAN BLACK COMMUNITY. DONALDSON'S REPLY WAS RATHER EVASIVE, BUT IN ESSENCE IT APPEARS THAT LITTLE HAS BEEN DONE, NOR DOES IT APPEAR THAT THE COMMITTEE NECESSARILY INTENDS TO DO MUCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALONG THIS LINE. ONE DILEMMA FACING THE COMMITTEE IS THAT IF LARGE NUMBERS OF AMERICANS GO TO LAGOS DURING THE FESTIVAL IF MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO FIND ACCOMMODATIONS. APPARENTLY DONALDSON BELIEVES THAT HE DOES NOT YET HAVE SUFFICIENT COMMITMENT FROM THE NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES ON PROVIDING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SUCH AMERICANS AS DO COME TO THE FESTIVAL, SO HE HAS NOT YET WORKED WITH TRAVEL AGENCIES TO ENCOURAGE TOURIST TRAVEL.

5. US ZONAL COMMITTEE FUND-RAISER WALKER WILLIAMS REPORTED ON THE COMMITTEE'S PLANS TO RAISE FUNDS. EVENTUALLY MEDALS AND POSTERS WILL BE ADVERTISED AND SOLD THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. THIS WILL RAISE SOME MONEY, AND HELP PUBLICIZE FESTAC, BUT WILLIAMS WISHES TO RAISE BULK OF

NECESSARY FUNDS FROM LARGE COMPANIES. TO THIS END, COMMITTEE HAD INVITED SIXTEEN CORPORATIONS, INCLUDING 14 OIL COMPANIES, TO MEETING AUGUST 5. TO SEND 1500 PARTICIPANTS WOULD REQUIRE ABOUT \$1.5 MILLION FOR TRAVEL, BAGGAGE, AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS. THE PAVILION WOULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SUMS. NEITHER DONALDSON NOR WILLIAMS SEEMED TO BE CONCERNED THAT THE COMMITTEE HAS NOT YET RECEIVED ANY CONTRIBUTIONS (BEYOND THE RECENT GRANT FROM CU). DONALDSON'S RESPONSE TO QUERIES WAS TO SAY THAT GENERAL OBASANJO IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT WANTS A STRONG AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN FESTAC, REGARDLESS OF COST.

6. DEPARTMENT HAS LEARNED THAT ONLY COMPANIES TO ATTEND THE AUGUST 5 MEETING WERE GULF AND ASHLAND. WILLIAMS PROPOSED THEY AND OTHER OIL COMPANIES BECOME CO-SPONSORS BY CONTRIBUTING \$100,000 EACH. COMPANIES RESPONDED BY EXPLAINING RELUCTANCE OF THEIR MANAGEMENT (AND PRESUMABLY MANAGEMENT OF OTHER COMPANIES) TO CONTRIBUTE WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING EVIDENCE OF BROAD-BASED SUPPORT FOR FESTAC IN US POPULATION, I.E. WITHIN BLACK COMMUNITY. EVEN THEN, THEY SUGGESTED THAT \$100,000 WAS UNREALISTICLY HIGH TARGET FOR CONTRIBUTION FROM SINGLE FIRM. WILLIAMS APPEARED TO GET MESSAGE, BUT DEPARTMENT HAS NOT YET LEARNED WHAT USZ COMMITTEE INTENDS TO DO NOW THAT CAMPAIGN TO GET EASY MONEY FROM OIL COMPANIES HAS FAILED.

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7. DEPARTMENT HELD INTERNAL MEETING JULY 13 (FOR AF, CU, SY, SCS, AND USIA) TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF PROVIDING SPECIAL SUPPORT FOR EMBASSY DURING FESTAC. MEMO ON MEETING POUCHED EMBASSY (ATTENTION TOM GUSTAFSON). MEETING REVEALED THAT DEPARTMENT LACKS CURRENT INFORMATION ON ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE IN LAGOS TO RECEIVE AND ACCOMMODATE FESTAC VISITORS. DEPARTMENT WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE PERIODIC UP-DATES FROM EMBASSY UNTIL FESTIVAL TAKES PLACE.

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